



CONSTRUCTION SITE  
INJURIES ARE OFTEN  
CATASTROPHIC, WITH THE  
INJURED WORKER LEAVING  
THE SITE ON A STRETCHER...

from  
**VICTIM**

to  
**VICTORY**

# FIRST **9** THINGS TO DO AFTER A CONSTRUCTION SITE INJURY

— by John Coco, Esq., Law Offices of JOHN COCO, PLLC

*However, workers more frequently suffer less severe injuries, which may not require immediate hospitalization.*

*In these cases, where the severity of the injury may not be immediately apparent, the worst course of action is to simply ignore the injury. This can be a costly mistake which puts the injured worker's health and future in jeopardy.*

*The following article provides steps to follow in case of a non-catastrophic construction site injury. Following these steps will protect the worker and his family in case a seemingly "minor" injury becomes more severe.*

## **#1** IMMEDIATELY REPORT YOUR INJURY TO A SHOP STEWARD OR SUPERVISOR

Every injury should be immediately reported to a Shop Steward or Supervisor. If the injury is truly "minor" and resolves, no harm has been done by reporting the injury. Failing to immediately report an injury could lead to future adverse consequences if the injury later worsens.

## **#2** GET IT IN WRITING

When you report your injury make sure an accident report is completed. Ask for a copy or take a picture with your phone if possible. These reports may "get lost" if you later need to claim Workers' Compensation benefits or file a lawsuit, so get a copy immediately.

## **#3** DOCUMENT THE SCENE

No matter how your injury happened, you must document the scene. If you slipped on debris, take photos of the debris from different angles. If your ladder collapsed, take photos of any broken parts. If you cannot take photos, ask a friend. These photos can make all the difference if your work injury is later disputed.

If your injury is more than minor, you can be certain that the liable company will immediately send their lawyers and investigators to document the scene. Always take photographs before another party has an opportunity to alter the scene.

## #4 GET WITNESS INFORMATION

If other workers witnessed your injury, get their names and phone numbers. You may need a witness to testify to your injury in the future.

Typically, construction workers are a tight knit group and will stand together when a co-worker is injured on the job.

## #5 GO HOME

Construction workers pride themselves on being tough. However, there is nothing tough about “working through” and worsening an injury.

If your injury is affecting your ability to complete your task, it is wise to leave for the day. This will protect your health, your safety, and the safety of your co-workers.

## #6 SEE A DOCTOR

Many construction sites have an on-site medical unit. It is wise to report any injury to this unit. However, remember that these units are not staffed by medical doctors, so one should not expect complete and proper treatment of an injury.

These on-site medical units are hired and paid by property owners and general contractors – the parties you may have to sue for your injuries. Staff of these units are often called at trial to testify that your injury was insignificant.

Do not rely on the on-site medical staff or any doctor who works for your company or their insurance company.

Get independent medical attention from your doctor or a doctor who is not affiliated with the construction project.

## #7 TAKE TIME OFF

If your doctor recommends taking time off to heal, please heed his advice. While most workers are very eager to return to the job, doing so too soon can exacerbate your injury and result in even more time missed from work.

## #8 FILE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS

If your injury requires time off from work, you should consider filing for Workers' Compensation benefits.

Workers' Compensation will pay for your medical bills and part of your lost wages if you are injured on the job.

## #9 SPEAK WITH A PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY

No one wants to deal with lawyers and the court system. However, this may be the only way to protect yourself and your family in case your injuries worsen. Our firm offers a free consultation and case evaluation. We also work on a strict contingency fee basis, meaning the injured worker never pays out of pocket for any expense or fee in his case.

*We offer a free consolation and case evaluation and never charge a fee unless we win your case.*

*We guide injury victims to victory.*



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